

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 1805 - HB 2152

February 25, 2014

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Authorizes broadcasters in this state, in cooperation with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters or its successor organization, to develop comprehensive, ordinary plans for preparing for and responding appropriately to an emergency or disaster. Authorizes any state organization that represents broadcasters to establish an approved program for training and certifying broadcast engineers and technical personnel as emergency response broadcasters. If such program is established, the following is required:

- Conform with any applicable federal law or guidelines regarding emergency response broadcasters;
- Provide adequate training and education on how to restore, repair, and resupply any broadcast facilities or equipment in areas affected by an emergency; and
- Provide adequate training to protect the personal safety of any emergency broadcasters in an area affected by an emergency.

Authorizes emergency response broadcasters to have access to an emergency area for the purpose of restoring, repairing, or resupplying any facility or equipment critical to the ability of such broadcaster to acquire, produce, or transmit essential public information during an emergency, unless such access would endanger public safety or inhibit recovery efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (012999): Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Authorizes a state organization representing the majority of broadcasters in this state, in cooperation with state and local emergency management agencies, to develop plans for preparing for and responding appropriately to an emergency or disaster. Authorizes any state organization that represents the majority of broadcasters in this state to establish a program for training and certifying broadcast engineers and technical personnel as emergency response broadcasters. If such program is established, the following is required:

- Be consistent with federal laws and guidelines;
- Provide training and education on how to restore, repair, and resupply any broadcast facilities or equipment in areas affected by an emergency, including, without limitation,

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- repairing and maintaining transmitters and generators and transporting fuel for generators; and
- Provide adequate training to protect the personal safety of any emergency broadcasters in an area affected by an emergency.

Authorizes emergency response broadcasters to have access to an emergency area for the purpose of restoring, repairing, or resupplying any facility or equipment critical to the ability of such broadcaster to acquire, produce, or transmit essential public information during an emergency, unless such access would endanger public safety or inhibit recovery efforts. Specifies that no emergency response broadcaster shall access an area affected by an emergency for the purpose of creating audio or video program content or transmitting information to the public.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- According to TEMA, it will choose to not engage in such training.
- According to the Department of Commerce and Insurance, this will have no fiscal impact on the Emergency Communications Board.
- It is assumed that all parties involved in training individuals to become emergency response broadcasters, will be privately funded, and receive no state funding.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/jdb